

REMARKS:

Claims 1-27 are in the case.

In reply to the Examiner's further restriction requirement, the Applicant elects generic claims 1 and 5 plus the group of claims containing claims 11, 12 and 13.

This election is made subject to the Applicant's right to file one or more divisional applications covering the non-elected claims, and with traverse to the extent that claims that are generic to at least some of the non-elected claims might be found allowable in view of the prior art, and particularly in view of Published Patent Application US2002/0063033 to Ben-Naim that was identified by the Examiner.

This reference teaches an apparatus and method for exchanging articles having only one sensor for determining the nature of the article and for registering that deposit as either a credit or to activate a return of a similar article, for example, the device can receive a soiled pair of pants having a certain size, and dispense the same size pants or a token for the user to retrieve the same sized pants later.

Claim 5 utilizes two separate operations, one reading and one sensing, which is believed to have no counterpart in the Ben-Naim teaching which has only one reading or sensing operation. Claims 11, 12 and 13 further distinguish the invention over the prior art.

Entry of this further election and favorable action is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,
/PETER C MICHALOS/
Peter C. Michalos
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 28,643
(845) 359-7700

PCM:kt

NOTARO & MICHALOS, P.C.
100 Dutch Hill Road, Suite 110
Orangeburg, NY 10962-2100

CUSTOMER NO. 21706